

NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team
FY15 - FY18 Strategic Priorities

Through engagement, integration, and innovation, NOAA's Regional Collaboration network improves cooperation among the NOAA Line Offices and partner entities to more effectively address our shared regional challenges and respond to emerging opportunities. Regional Collaboration expands on existing coordination and communication efforts by enhancing program integration activities to address NOAA's priorities at regional scales, thereby improving productivity and value to constituents. NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) network creates means for people to engage at a regional scale (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR, and USVI) and invites new approaches to develop products and services that are responsive to the region's changing economy and environment. This strategy identifies SECART's three priority areas for action over the period FY15-18 and is responsive to NOAA's Strategic Plan and the Regional Collaboration Network Strategy.

Priority Area: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA's mission execution through enhanced collaboration across NOAA line offices and with partners.

Goal 1: Address regional priorities by connecting people and resources.

- Identify information, communication, coordination, and resource gaps and identify solutions for closing the gaps;
- Understand the capabilities of NOAA and its partners within the region and facilitate bringing those capabilities to bear on priority issues, consistent with NOAA's mission;
- Convene NOAA and partners together to address specific regional priorities;
- Support and engage regional partnerships to efficiently address shared goals.

Goal 2: Exchange both national and regional insights that inform action.

- Understand regional issues and needs and transmit that information to inform NOAA program planning;
- Enhance NOAA leadership's understanding of the region's issues and NOAA capabilities in the region;
- Help regional staff and partners understand NOAA's mission, goals, capabilities and constraints;
- Provide guidance and support in the development and implementation of NOAA-wide regional programs.

Goal 3: Improve awareness of NOAA's broad mission responsibilities and regional capabilities to achieve an understanding of, and respect for, the totality of NOAA's work.

- Elevate the awareness and value of NOAA through strategic partnerships, outreach, and communication;
- Build NOAA's interdisciplinary capacity and organizational integration;
- Improve leadership's understanding of the capabilities and interconnectedness of NOAA expertise in the region;
- Assist in developing and tailoring engagement strategies for the regional implementation of national priorities.

Priority Area: Improve Resilience of Communities to Extreme Events and Climate Change

Goal 1: Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change.

- Collect, analyze, and evaluate the resiliency related needs of partners and users in the region to inform and focus research and development efforts to help address the issues;
- Connect people and resources to enhance existing and develop new products and services;
- Encourage and facilitate the transition of research to develop societally relevant applications.

Goal 2: Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by extreme events and climate change.

- Target outreach and communication efforts to facilitate delivery of resilience-relevant information to communities;
- Facilitate the application of science and tools in communities to assist with risk identification and the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Promote the effective implementation of built and natural solutions by bringing NOAA tools and resources to partners.

Goal 3: Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster.

- Identify agency capabilities within the region for response to disasters;
- Improve communication among appropriate NOAA entities both within and outside the region for a better understanding of capabilities and roles during a disaster response.

Priority Area: Promote the sustainability of the region's living marine resources and the habitats upon which they depend

Goal 1: Improve coordination and focus of coastal and marine habitat conservation and restoration.

- Improve coordination among NOAA entities and partners to identify capabilities and efficiencies in achieving regional priorities in resource management and conservation;
- Improve awareness of NOAA's mapping activities in the region and access to mapping products;
- Promote development of tools to identify emerging habitat mapping priorities for NOAA programs and partners;
- Promote NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Framework and regional habitat conservation initiatives in the Southeast US and Caribbean.

Goal 2: Enhance awareness of risks to living marine resources and habitats

- Improve regional awareness of impacts from climate variability, including extreme weather events, on natural systems;
- Identify and prioritize emerging regional needs for NOAA ecological modeling and forecasts with a focus on harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, waterborne pathogens, or health of biological communities.